



AIANTA
American Indian Alaska Native
Tourism Association

Winter 2015/2016

NEWSLETTER

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Indian Country Tourism Heads to Showcase USA-Italy and ITB in Berlin

International tourism continues to grow in Indian country, setting record numbers in the past three years with overseas visitors boosting the U.S. economy. According to U.S. Department of Commerce research, travelers to Native communities generally spend 12 more days in the U.S. than those who don't visit Indian country. And 67 percent of those visitors are leisure travelers who spend more money per capita than other travelers.

In an effort to bring this valuable European travel market information back to Indian Country, and to expose that market to authentic, native tourism destinations, AIANTA will be heading to Turin, Italy in March, for their second year of participation in Showcase USA-Italy.

Continue reading about AIANTA's 2016 international outreach on page 3



AIANTA and tribal delegation at ITB, Berlin 2015

AIANTA & National Tour Association Announce Official Partnership



AIANTA has announced its new partnership with the National Tour Association (NTA) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for increased collaboration in education and cultural exchanges within the tourism industry.

"AIANTA is excited to enter into this partnership with NTA," said AIANTA Executive Director Camille Ferguson. "Building these types of partnerships help to grow and enhance tourism while supporting long-term economic viability for Native communities."

Continue reading on page 2

JOB OPENING: Development Director



Learn more on next page

Job Opening at AIANTA: Development Director

Are you passionate about Indian Country and the tourism industry? Do you have experience in business development, fundraising and partnership building? AIANTA wants to hear from you!

AIANTA is currently seeking a qualified individual to fill the Development Director position.

This position requires experience and knowledge of major nonprofit fundraising and program development. Energy, creativity and originality, along with writing, public speaking and other communication and people skills are essential. The Development Director (Director) spearheads revenue development efforts as AIANTA continues to grow. The Director reports to and works in partnership with the Executive Director. A new position in the organization, the Development Director will have the opportunity to build the development function from the ground up.

To learn more about the job, find out if you're qualified, and to apply, visit <http://aianta.org/job-listings.aspx>

Message From the Executive Director

Dear Members, Partners and Friends,

Even though winter may be a slow season for many in the tourism cycle, it is always a busy time here at the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association.

With the cold weather and New Year comes the time at AIANTA to gear up for our international outreach, build on new and existing partnerships, and continue our outreach to tribes and tourism industry leaders throughout the country and the world.

In this issue, you'll learn more about our upcoming tradeshow ventures in Italy and Germany, how you can join the first destination website to feature Indian Country tourism across the United States, our newest partnership-with the National Tour Association, and a lot of pertinent industry news.

We are also excited for you to hear from one of our scholarship recipients, Jordan Dresser, who recently graduated and has big goals to help his community.

And as always, read on for travel and tourism updates from around Indian Country in all six regions across the nation.

This winter season marks the anniversary of my third year at this great organization in the role of Executive Director. Here, I have a wonderful opportunity to build and grow new partnerships and to work with an amazing group of dedicated professionals to carry out a vision to enhance the value of Indian Country tourism nationally and internationally. I want to thank all of you for your tremendous support since my arrival on the staff here at AIANTA, and to say how excited I am to continue on working toward the mission of introducing, growing and sustaining American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian tourism that honors traditions and values.

Cheers,



Camille Ferguson
AIANTA Executive Director



AIANTA & National Tour Association Announce Official Partnership



NTA President Pam Inman presenting at AIANTA's 2015 American Indian Tourism Conference

The purpose of this new MOU is to establish a general framework for cooperation and collaboration between AIANTA and NTA to help accelerate both organizations' goals and initiatives within the industry.

Both organizations view tribal tourism, recreation and heritage resources as economic and cultural assets that will increase in value with expanded collaboration between the two national groups, especially through development of—and education about—tribal tourism.

"AIANTA is a welcome complement to the collaborative work NTA members perform. We can make the most of our partnership with AIANTA by embracing the timeless heritage and traditions its members are able to share," said NTA President Pam Inman.

The National Tour Association is the premier organization of packaged travel professionals who serve travelers to, from, and within North America. The buyer members are tour operators who package travel domestically and around the world. The seller members—500 destinations and 1,100 tour suppliers—specialize in markets such as student, family, faith, adventure, culinary, China inbound, and more. NTA membership represents more than 40 countries. To learn more, please visit <http://www.ntaonline.com>.



Anchorage, Alaska

February 22-25, 2016

The 28th annual Go West Summit in Anchorage, Alaska is approaching quickly. Go West Summit brings together international tour operators from over 35 countries around the world to meet with tourism suppliers from the 14 western U.S. states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Sponsored by the 14 western states tourism offices, the Go West Summit is the premiere travel trade business-to-business forum for the American West. Over 27 years, the Go West Marketplace has produced over \$3.3 billion in tourism receipts for western U.S. companies.

Go West Summit has developed a unique partnership with AIANTA and invites all AIANTA members from any region of the United States to attend the event. First time attendees may register at the early bird rate of \$1,995—a \$200 savings.

This year, Camille Ferguson, AIANTA Executive Director, is giving a special presentation about investing in and growing tourism partnerships. Using examples from AIANTA's own experiences and partners, Camille will be discussing how to bridge federal, state, tribal and private differences to create, enhance and grow tourism across the country.

There is still a very limited time to register for this event. If your company is not able to attend this year, be sure to put Go West Summit on your calendar for February, 2017.

To register and for further information visit www.gowestsummit.com.

Indian Country Tourism Heads to Showcase USA-Italy and ITB in Berlin



Showcase USA-Italy, this year from March 6-8, is a tradeshow organized by the U.S. Commercial Service and Visit USA Association Italy. As the only marketing event exclusively dedicated to promoting Italian tourism to the United States, Showcase USA-Italy provides Aianta the opportunity to research the Italian tourism market and form valuable partnerships for building business. At this year's 19th annual edition, U.S. participants will meet individually with more than 30 major Italian tour operators, 80 travel agents and 25 trade journalists.

Immediately following this Italian outreach, Aianta will be attending ITB, Berlin, from March 8-13, for the eighth consecutive year, representing Indian Country tourism and all of its diversity. ITB, Berlin is the world's leading travel trade show with more than 170,000 visitors, 113,000 tourism professionals and 11,000 companies from 180 countries.

This year, Aianta will be sponsoring five tribal entities in its award winning pavilion, providing a training opportunity for tribes and businesses new to the European market, and helping develop partnerships and resources for those who already have experience here. Aianta will also be showcasing the newly launched Indian Country tourism destination website, NativeAmerica.travel. This new website serves as a platform for all tribes across the country, whether new to the industry or established in tourism, to share and market their tourism products and businesses with the world. Exposing the European tourism market to this site will serve as a powerful economic development tool for tourism in Indian Country.



High School Outreach in Berlin, Germany

Each year, Aianta's ITB delegation participates in cultural outreach held by the U.S. Embassy in Berlin. Participants educate high school students on their culture and everyday life.

Meet US Program, Germany



Drawing Press Attention at ITB, Berlin

Aianta's award winning pavilion at ITB, Berlin, as well as the unique story Native America has to tell is always a big media draw at the World's leading travel-trade show.

ITB, Berlin



Nearly 125 meetings in Pisa, Italy

During Showcase USA-Italy 2015, Aianta representatives met with Italian tourism trade professionals including tour operators, travel agencies and travel media.

Showcase USA-Italy

Monument Valley Simpson's Trailhandler Tours:

Tours led by Navajo guides who know every crease, crater and canyon in their enchanting homeland. Trips for photographers and adventurers are offered in a land of petroglyphs, pictographs, ancient dwellings and magical landscapes in a full spectrum of colors. Tours can also be combined with an overnight stay in an authentic Navajo Hogan. <http://www.trailhandlertours.com/>



Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma:

Offering an array of significant historical and modern attractions for visitors. Chickasaw Cultural Center is the largest tribal cultural center in the United States and offers demonstrations, exhibits and an amphitheater for singing and stargazing. Chickasaw art, artifacts and archives draw visitors to the Chickasaw Council House Museum. This year, Chickasaw Nation's delegation will include Be Native Tours, a new receptive tour operator company based in Oklahoma City. The new company specializes in group tour opportunities throughout the south-central region of the U.S., focusing on Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Kansas. Be Native Tours is affiliated with the Chickasaw Nation and guided by a planner with more than 20 years of tour experience. <http://www.chickasawcountry.com/>



Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprise:

Representing three properties located in the heart of Navajo country's fascinating lands and intriguing people, including Quality Inn Navajo Nation, Quality Inn Navajo Nation Capital, and Navajo Travel Center. All are located on the largest Indian Reservation in the United States and staffed almost exclusively by Navajo people. http://www.explorenavajo.com/go2/home_page.cfm



OPOS (Our People Our Story) Tours:

Operated out of Minnesota, OPOS offers Indigenous cultural experiences through travel. OPOS Tours' mission is to preserve and share the culture of Minnesota tribes through immersion and experience. <http://opos.tours/>



The Keepers of the Sacred Tradition of Pipemakers:

A non-profit organization in Pipestone, Minnesota, that strives to protect and educate the public about the nearby pipestone quarries. The group travels the world offering workshops, presentations and cultural exchanges that break down stereotypes while passing down knowledge to tribal youth. Workshops include culture camps, dance classes, dance presentations, drumming classes, and drum making classes. <http://www.pipekeepers.org/>



NativeAmerica.travel: Register your Tribe or Business Today

What is NativeAmerica.travel?

NativeAmerica.travel is a new destination website representing American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian tourism across the United States, connecting tribes directly to travelers. It features inspiring historical, cultural, and outdoor narratives and high-impact photographs to invite them to explore Indian Country.

Why Register?

With cultural and experiential tourism continually gaining popularity, Indian Country tourism and economic development go hand in hand. Translating this trend into economic growth has just become a lot easier for tribes, thanks to NativeAmerica.travel, brought to you by the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA).

Travel and tourism is one of America's largest industries, with \$927.9 billion spent directly by domestic and international travelers in 2014. International travel grew 3.7 percent last year, with 6.7 percent growth in spending, according to Brand USA.

To help tribes and tribal businesses break into this huge industry, and to give all 567 federally-recognized tribes an opportunity to represent themselves in their own words, AIANTA is offering each a dedicated page to tell visitors about their history, culture and visitor attractions.

Not ready for tourism? Your tribe can still tell its story on its profile page.

What is the Cost?

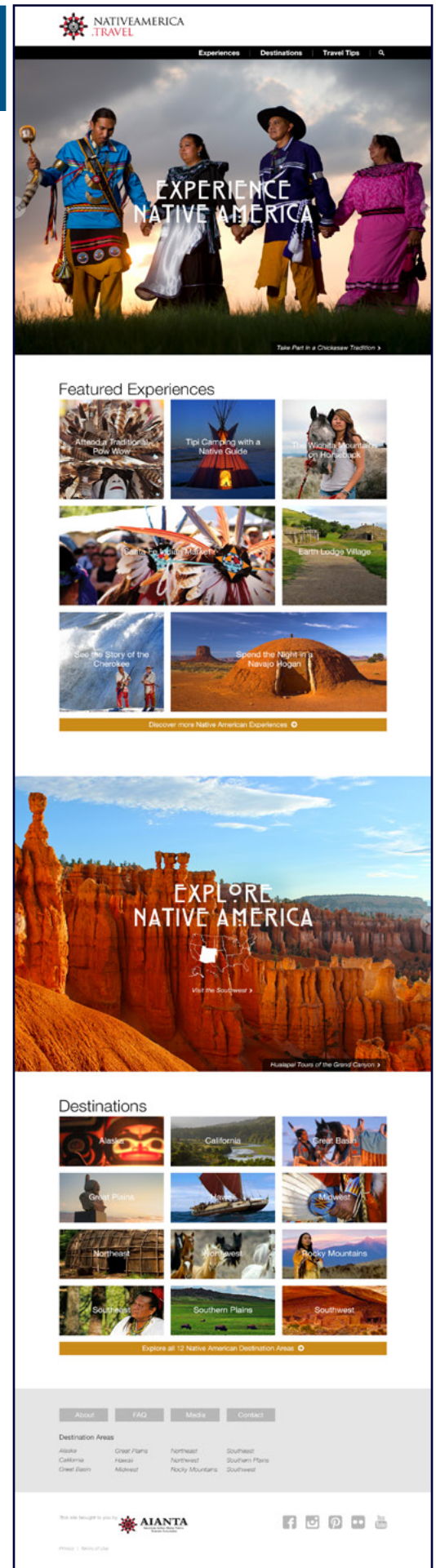
At this time, listings are free of charge to tribes. Tribes and Native-owned tourism businesses listed on the site will be able to reach a wider audience online and control their own listing content at all times. Site visitors are steered to destinations and partners through live links and contact information for future trip planning, so all business opportunities are directed back to the Native-owned businesses and partners.

How do You Register?

To register your tribe or native-owned tourism business for the new site please visit NativeAmerica.travel and scroll down to the bottom of the page for three links:

- [Manage Your Tribe Page](#)
- [Add an Accommodation](#)
- [Add an Attraction](#)

For more information about the site, email registration@nativeamericatravel.com. Or call the AIANTA office at (505) 724-3592.



AIANTA IN THE NEWS



New website aims to showcase Native American destinations



AIANTA and NTA Announce Official Partnership



National Travel Exchange Features Indian Country Tourism for First Time



Top 11 Amazing Hotels For Immersive Experiences

The Industry's First Adventure Travel Guide Performance Standards



The Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA) has recently introduced the penultimate version of the adventure travel industry's first ever Adventure Travel Guide Qualification and Performance Standard. This standard is currently posted for industry feedback and will be discussed for finalization at the upcoming Adventure Travel World Summit in Puerto Varas, Chile.

Adventure and outdoor travel makes up a significant sector of the tourism industry within Indian Country. With powerfully beautiful landscapes, vast open space, cultural adventures and a strong connection to the outdoors, Indian Country destinations often lend themselves to adventure-seeking tourists.

The industry as a whole has also seen a rapid expansion of adventure tourism, creating the need for a spearheaded effort to put together an official standard for adventure travel guides. In response to this need, ATTA formed a working group made up of interested industry stakeholders including 17 individuals from 15 different countries.

This standard is being offered to the industry as a voluntary guideline. It is not enforced or regulated by the ATTA or any other organization.

According to Adventure Travel News, destination managers and company owners are encouraged to refer to this standard when evaluating their own guides and determining appropriate training programs.

To view the guide standards and to learn more, visit the Adventure Travel Trade Association at <http://www.adventuretravel.biz/education/guide-standard/>.

AIANTA Scholarship Spotlight: Jordan Dresser Works Hard to Share and Perpetuate his Culture

Since 2012, AIANTA has been proud to award scholarships to Native American students interested in pursuing careers in the hospitality and tourism industry and culinary arts.

The organization is even more proud when these scholarship recipients succeed in their goals and make great strides in empowering and supporting their cultures and all of Indian Country.

Jordan Dresser, one of AIANTA's most dedicated scholarship recipients, has recently graduated from the University of San Francisco with a Masters of Arts Degree in Museum Studies. He and his fellow graduates were the second cohort to complete the sixteen-month program, which provides students with hands-on experience to become leaders in the museum world.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about or applying for the AIANTA scholarship, please contact Sherrie Bowman at sbowman@aianta.org.

AIANTA was able to speak with Jordan about his recent successes and his plans moving forward. See the interview below.



Congratulations on graduating, what are your plans now?

Q & A

With Jordan Dresser



I plan on pursuing a career within the museum world by working for a tribal museum or an institution with a substantial Native American collection. I want to gain valuable experience that will help me achieve my dream of creating a museum on the Wind River Indian Reservation that tells the story of the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone people. Museums are incredible sites where people make connections to themselves and the world. The impact a tribal museum could have on the residents of Wind River and Wyoming as a whole could be powerful. It could help us reclaim our tribal identity and how we present it to the world.



How do you feel the AIANTA Scholarship program has impacted your life and your education?



The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association Scholarship empowered me to take the next step in pursuing higher education. College is a time-consuming and demanding endeavor that very few Native Americans complete. AIANTA gave me the reassurance that not only could I complete and excel in school, but I had the support of Native communities throughout the country who believe in the power of tourism and the positive opportunities it can bring.



What is your proudest achievement or moment from your college career?



Being a part of a diverse cohort that made me question and learn more about the world we live in. My cohort was made up of smart, talented and compassionate individuals from all over the world including the Philippines, Italy and Iran. Hearing their personal stories helped me realize how museums can bring people from all walks of life together to make important connections about the world. Museums are about telling the stories of not only the items they house but most importantly, about the people they represent. My cohort also took the time to hear my story as a young Native American trying to make a positive change in how Native people view museums. It gave me hope that we all can help and support each other in the future.



We heard you've recently been featured in a film, can you tell us more about that?



I am very honored and excited to be a part of this amazing film project. "What Was Ours" tells the story of various tribal members on the Wind River Indian Reservation as we navigate the worlds of tribal identity, museums and reclaiming our sacred items. The film was shot over a four-year period and highlights our journey during that time. The piece is thoughtful, engaging and shows a side of Indian Country very rarely explored. The film will premiere at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in Missoula, Montana, on February 22 before traveling to various other film festivals throughout the country.

BIGSKY DOCUMENTARY
FILM FESTIVAL
F E B R U A R Y 1 9 - 2 8 , 2 0 1 6



[What Was Ours \(Official Trailer\)](#) from Alpheus Media on Vimeo.

What Was Ours

Mat Hames, 2015, 75 minutes

Monday February 22 @ 7:30 pm – Wilma
Saturday February 27 @ 10:00 am – Crystal

"What Was Ours" can be previewed [here](#).

AIANTA Southwest Board Rep. Shares Rural Tourism Expertise in Peru



Emerson Vallo presents at the National Gathering of Community-based Rural Tourism in Peru

In November 2015, Emerson Vallo from Acoma Pueblo attended and presented at the 9th annual National Gathering of Community-based Rural Tourism in Peru, as one of AIANTA's Southwest Board Representatives.

The conference provides training, dialogue and an exchange of experiences for community-based and rural organizations. The main focus of the 2015 event was presenting and collecting contributions to the Strategic Plan of Community-based Rural Tourism, from rural tourism entrepreneurs and managers. Discussions also centered on generating inclusive and sustainable economic development through tourism in rural areas.

Emerson Vallo was invited to speak about his extensive experience in rural and cultural tourism at Acoma Pueblo in New Mexico.

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Heartland Byways Conference: April 4-6, 2016

The 2016 Heartland Byways Conference, scheduled for April 4-6, is being held in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Designed for byway leaders to enhance tourism opportunities in their regions, this conference is open to byway leaders as well as all other partners in the travel industry.

Although the Heartland region is made up of the eight states of Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Illinois, Kansas and Missouri, participants and speakers are invited from across the nation.

Topics of focus in 2016 will be geared toward re-energizing all stakeholders and provide them with tools to improve marketing, identify valuable partners and create a corridor management plan to strengthen the delivery of their individual mission.

To register for the conference, visit <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2404327>.

NEWS from

The National Travel & Tourism Office

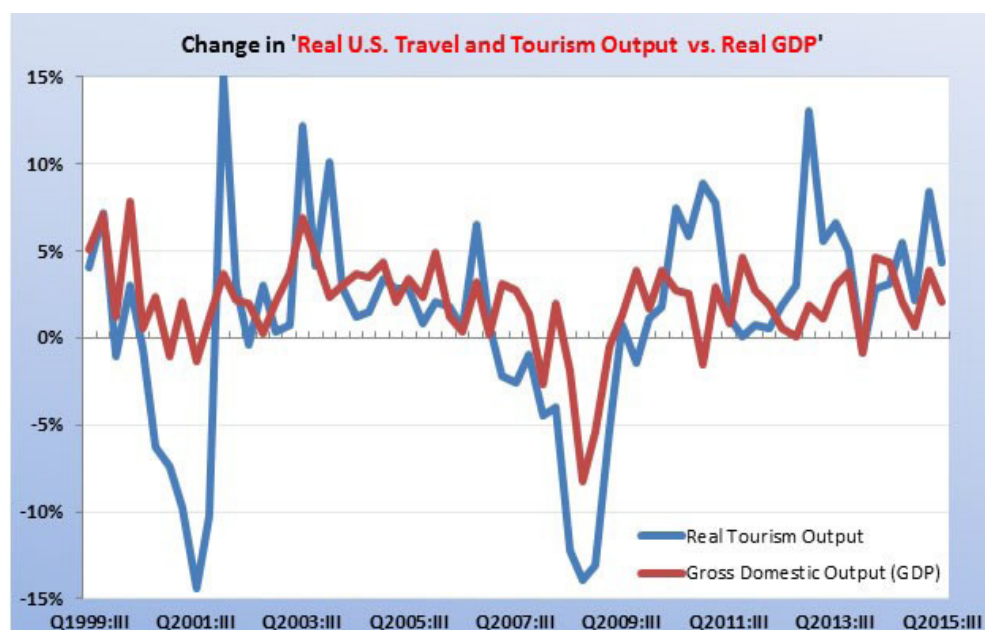
U.S. Travel and Tourism Industry Output Grew at more than Twice the Rate of the U.S. Economy in Third Quarter 2015

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, real spending on travel and tourism continued to rise during the third quarter of 2015, increasing at an annual rate of more than 4%, after also increasing more than 8% in the second quarter of 2015. The U.S. economy on the other hand, showed only half the growth exhibited by travel and tourism, increasing 2% during the third quarter. This marks the fourth consecutive quarter in which travel and tourism's output growth has outpaced the growth of the U.S. economy.

Data and information provided by the National Travel & Tourism Office (NTTO):

- **Tourism Prices.** Prices of travel and tourism goods and services turned down in the third quarter, decreasing 0.3 percent following an increase of 0.5 percent in the second quarter. The downturn was mainly attributable to a downturn in "all other transportation-related commodities," which includes gasoline, travel arrangements and reservation services, and automotive rental. Prices for "traveler accommodations" turned up in the third quarter, partially offsetting the downturn in prices for "all other transportation-related commodities."
- **Tourism Employment.** Employment growth in the travel and tourism industries accelerated, increasing 2.2 percent in the third quarter of 2015 after increasing 1.6 percent in the second quarter. In comparison, overall U.S. employment increased 1.8 percent in the third quarter after increasing 1.7 percent in the second quarter. "Food services and drinking places" was the most significant contributor to employment growth, adding 14.6 thousand employees, followed by "air transportation" which added 4.5 thousand employees.

To view the entire Q2 2015 report, visit: <http://travel.trade.gov/research/programs/satellite/tour315.pdf>



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Travel and Tourism Satellite Account (TTSA).

NEWS from

The National Travel & Tourism Office

International Visits to the U.S. Continue to Grow

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, the United States experienced a four percent increase in international visitors in June 2015, compared to 2014. June 2015 marked the 18th consecutive month of growth in total U.S. visits since June 2014, with a total 6.2 million international visitors.

Highlights from the National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO):

Top Inbound International Markets

- The top inbound markets continued to be Canada and Mexico. Overnight volume from Canada totaled 1.5 million visitors in June 2015, a 14 percent decline (-14%) compared May 2014. At the same time, Mexico recorded 1.4 million visits to the United States, an increase of 13 percent. The United Kingdom (+21%), Japan (+2%) and the People's Republic of China (excl HK) (+15%) rounded out the top five inbound markets.
- In June 2015 nine of the top 10 countries posted increases in non-resident visits. Non-resident visitation from six of the top 10 countries registered double-digit increases.
- YTD June 2015 nine of the top 10 countries posted increases in visitation to the United States.

Top 10 Countries

Country of Residence (Sorted on June 2015)	Percent Change June 2015 vs. 2014	Percent Change YTD June 2015 vs. 2014	Rank for YTD June 2015
Canada	-14%	-6%	1
Mexico	13%	8%	2
United Kingdom	21%	14%	3
Japan	2%	2%	4
People's Republic of China (EXCL HK)	15%	18%	5
Germany	11%	14%	7
Brazil	22%	5%	6
South Korea	10%	20%	8
Australia	8%	11%	10
France	5%	4%	9

Access to NTTO Data

The National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO) collects, analyzes and disseminates international travel and tourism statistics from the U.S. Travel and Tourism Statistical System. NTTO produces visitation data tables, including more detailed regional, country and port analyses. To access these data, you are encouraged to visit the NTTO monthly arrivals page at <http://travel.trade.gov/view/m-2015-I-001/index.html>.

Free Report: The Rise of Location Data in Travel

Skift, an industry intelligence and marketing platform in travel, in partnership with the Travel Marketing Store, is currently offering readers free access to their 25 page report, "The Rise of Location Data in Travel."

The report looks at what tactics destination marketers are testing and using to fully utilize location data. Readers will learn new ways to attract, assist and understand their target customers.

The techniques included in the report include new tools to feature and promote local businesses, using location-tagged content, using location-aware social media sites for marketing, and new features of the Google Maps interface.

"Location-data provides destination marketers with a wealth of information about what travelers are doing in the places they visit. But that data is only useful if it leads to actions that attract new travelers and drive more visitors." – Rise of Location Data report

Tactics used by successful destination marketers discussed in the report include integrating location data into your website, looking at location macro trends to uncover customer insights, the use of location services to curate destination knowledge, personalizing the travel experience and experimenting with location-data to excite and innovate.

To download the full report, free of charge, click [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 11-15, 2016

AMERICAN INDIAN TOURISM CONFERENCE 2016



AIANTA
American Indian Alaska Native
Tourism Association



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NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION: Our Six Regions

Alaska Region

Alaskan Dream Cruises takes guests deeper into Alaska's wild landscape in 2016

Alaskan Dream Cruises, a Native-owned, small-ship cruise line, will sail into its 2016 season this May with a diverse line-up of cruises, all featuring opportunities for True Alaska Exploration in the remote wilderness.

Offering travelers an insider's look at Alaska, the cruise line's 2016 itineraries consist of eight-, nine- and 11-day sailings on five different vessels, including the new Chichagof Dream. Two departures are "Become a True Alaskan" family cruises geared toward multi-generational groups and families with young children.

Travelers who are looking for the most intimate look at Southeast Alaska may want to consider booking their cruise on the Misty Fjord, a 60-foot expedition vessel accommodating only 10 passengers. Alaskan Dream first launched the Misty Fjord in 2015 and offers set departure dates or charter opportunities on this vessel. The ship is equipped with five guest cabins with private baths and a beautiful teak salon.

Itineraries will traverse the Inside Passage between Sitka, a small scenic community and Alaskan Dream Cruises' headquarters, and the state's capital, Juneau. The Misty Fjord will take passengers deep into the Alaska wilderness to the remote coves of Eastern Baranof Island, Tenakee Inlet, Tracy Arm, Icy Strait, Port Frederick and the Frederick Sound.



Guests will even soar over the Taku Inlet on a hovercraft flight. Days will be filled with impromptu opportunities for hiking, wildlife encounters or wilderness discovery. Guests have access to a walk-around outer deck perfect for wildlife viewing and photography. In addition, they can visit the wheel-house to take in the captain's view.

On shore and onboard Alaskan Dream Cruises expeditions, naturalists and cultural heritage guides lend their expertise, sharing history and context with guests through presentations and informal conversations. Even meals highlight local ingredients and wild Alaska seafood, with accompanying Alaska spirits available at the bar.

For more information on Alaskan Dream Cruises 2016 itineraries, please visit www.alaskandreamcruises.com.

CIRI Alaska Tourism Hiring for 2016 Season

Information from www.CIRI.com

CIRI Alaska Tourism Corporation is now accepting applications for its 2016 tourism season. The company has a variety of seasonal job openings at its lodge and restaurant operations in Talkeetna, Seward and Fox Island, as well as in the Anchorage office and aboard Kenai Fjords Tours' sightseeing vessels.



Visit www.ciritourism.com to view current job openings and apply online.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION: Our Six Regions

Eastern Region



Council approves Bowling Entertainment Center project

By Scott Mckie B.P.

Bowlers in Cherokee will no longer have to leave town to go for strikes and spares. Tribal Council passed a resolution during Budget Council on Wednesday, Feb. 3 to build a \$13 million Bowling Entertainment Center on property at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort.

The resolution, submitted by Principal Chief Patrick Lambert, has the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians responsible for half or roughly \$6.5 million of the price tag with the TCGE (Tribal Casino Gaming Enterprise) being responsible for the other half.

Read the full article at www.onefeather.com.



An artist's rendering shows the exterior of the Bowling Entertainment Center which was approved by Tribal Council on Wednesday, Feb. 2. (Images courtesy of TCGE)

The Reclaiming of Native American Fashion

A new generation of designers gains visibility in an industry that's misappropriated its culture for decades

By Chavie Liever, January 21, 2016

Read the full article at www.racked.com.

"We are smack dab in the middle of a Native fashion renaissance," proclaims Karen Kramer, the Peabody Essex Museum's curator of Native American art and culture. "Native fashion increasingly permeates everyday life — across the internet, in stores, skate parks, runways, pretty much everywhere you go. Native Americans have always used clothing and personal adornment as key means for artistic expression and cultural survival. Today's Native designers are expanding on this creation, breaking creative boundaries left and right."

Kramer is delivering remarks at the press preview for "Native Fashion Now," the country's first major exhibit to showcase contemporary Native American fashion, on a chilly fall evening in Salem, Massachusetts. "Native Fashion Now" is in Salem until early March, after which it will travel to the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, the Portland Art

Museum in Oregon, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in New York City. The exhibit features nearly 100 pieces of clothing and accessories made by 75 different Native American designers from the US and Canada.

The designers' styles vary widely, as do their backgrounds. You'll find an elegant evening gown by Dorothy Grant made of silk and tulle with red and black Kaigani Haida eagles printed on the skirt, and also a spandex bodycon dress by Whitefish Lake First Nation designer Derek Jagodzinsky that has Cree syllabics emblazoned on an accompanying belt. There's a woven wool tunic with fringe from Navajo designer D.Y. Begay; a bondage necklace made of Tahitian pearls and stainless steel from Pat Pruitt of the Laguna Pueblo tribe; and Christian Louboutin boots covered in antique beads from Jamie Okuma, a designer of Luiseño and Shoshone-Bannock descent.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION: Our Six Regions

Midwest Region



FESTIVAL of woodland Indian Art show & Market

Art Classes • Educational Luncheon
Song • Dance Performances

JULY 1, 2 & 3 2016

RADISSON HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

2040 Airport Dr., Green Bay, WI Across from the Airport

Theme **Mother Earth Our Environment**

www.woodlandindianart.com • information/updates as available

ENJOY The best FREE festival of art and culture in this area!



Sponsored by:



NEWS FROM INDIAN COUNTRY

Iroquois Raised Beadwork on display at Neville Museum

Story Editing by Paul DeMain
Green Bay, Wisconsin (ICC)

Artist, Karen Ann Hoffman, a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin is exhibiting her contemporary Iroquois Raised Beadwork at the Neville Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

The exhibit, "Sisters in Spirit" opened September 26, 2015 and will close February 14, 2016. "Sisters in Spirit" uses contemporary artwork with ancient themes to explore the complex relationship between Wisconsin's Native and immigrant populations. It pairs 38 pieces of Hoffman's artwork with 20 original watercolors by non-native artist, Geri Schrab. Schrab is a painter whose work is inspired by Wisconsin's ancient rock art sites.

Read the full article at:
www.IndianCountryNews.com

ANISHINAABEG TODAY

A Monthly Chronicle of the White Earth Nation



New Honor the Earth grants to focus on traditions and protection of sacred sites

Honor the Earth's Board of Directors is pleased to announce \$90,000 in new grants to indigenous organizations in North America and the Pacific.

"This year's grants are particularly focused on protection of sacred sites, and the continuation of strong cultural traditions in our Native communities," Board Co-Chair Shannon Martin, (Potawatami/ Anishinaabe) explained. The grants range from the work to protect sacred ceremonial grounds and traditions to the repatriation of Ojibwe birchbark scrolls to the White Earth band of Anishinaabeg.

Grantees include, Apache Stronghold (San Carlos Apache Reservation), Earth Guardians (Boulder, Colorado), Halau Hula Ke'alaonamaupua (Hawaii), Native American Educational Technologies (Lac Courte Orielles Reservation, Wisconsin), Nibi Walks (Minneapolis), Horse Spirit Society (Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota), Water Unity Alliance (Mohawk Territory) Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw (Louisiana), and the White Earth Nation and many others.

Read the full article at www.whiteearth.com.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION: Our Six Regions

Pacific Region

NorthCoast NEWS

Yurok Tribe releases new video to boost tourism

By Jeremy Chen, Multimedia Journalist

KLAMATH, Calif. -The Yurok Tribe unveiled a new video to get more tourists to visit Yurok Country. The four and a half minute long video shows the various sights and sounds in the area such as the Klamath River and redwood trees.

According to the tribe, 3.4 million motorists drive past Klamath, and they are looking to tap into that number further due to increased income coming into Del Norte County.

Last year \$114 million was spent in the area, which was a 2.5 percent increase from 2013, according to the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce.

The tribe has already seen good numbers as they said the Redwood Hotel and Casino has reached full capacity at times over the summer. The newly opened Yurok Country Visitor Center has also seen good numbers since it opened in July.

Read the full story and see the video at www.krcrtv.com.



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NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION: Our Six Regions

Plains Region

Artesian Arts Festival Set May 28 in Sulphur

A Celebration of Native Art at 3rd annual Artesian Arts Festival

SULPHUR, Okla. – More than 5,000 art lovers are expected to stream into Sulphur Saturday, May 28 for the third annual Artesian Arts Festival.

The Chickasaw Nation is hosting the Memorial Day weekend arts festival at the Artesian Plaza. A community celebration of all forms of art, Native American artists and art are the main focus of the festival.

The event features diverse art media and a variety of visual art such as paintings, basketry, jewelry, sculpture, metalworking, bead work, textiles and pottery.

Organizers are accepting 90 Native artists for the 2016 Artesian Arts Festival.

Open to artists from all federally recognized tribes, artists will compete in a juried competition in as many as 21 categories.

Cash awards will be presented for first, second and third place in each category, as well as “Best of Show.” Artist application deadline is February 26.

Dozens of booths lining Muskogee Street in Sulphur will display works of the artists.

The day-long festival will also highlight a variety of

musical entertainment, tribal dance demonstrations and regalia, food trucks and food booths, a special area for children’s activities and a senior citizens’ arts and crafts booth.

Open to the public at no charge, the Artesian Arts Festival welcomed more than 4,500 to last year’s festival.

For more information about the Artesian Arts Festival, contact the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520, by email at artistinfo@chickasaw.net.

The Artesian Plaza is located adjacent to the Artesian Hotel and Spa, 1001 W. First Street.

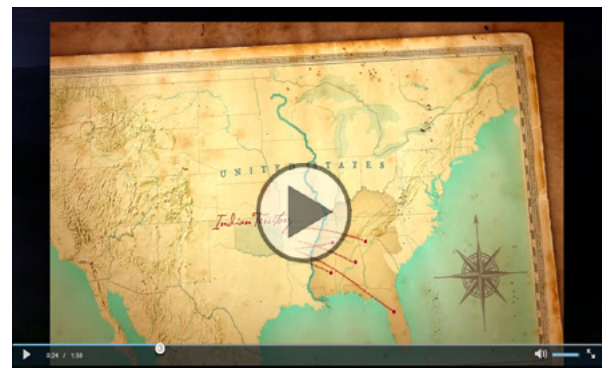


The Artesian Arts Festival, 2015

OKLAHOMA'S NATIVE EXPERIENCE

Five Native Nations in the state of Oklahoma-Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (creek), and Seminole-have joined together to invite you to explore their five distinct living cultures and learn about their vibrant traditions. Learn more at www.OKNativeTravel.com.

Click the image below to see the video at OKNativeTravel.com



NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION: Our Six Regions

Southwest Region

Grand Canyon West Tops 1 Million Visitor Mark in 2015

PEACH SPRINGS, AZ. - A soaring number of visitors to the Grand Canyon Skywalk and other Grand Canyon West tourism attractions has made 2015 a record year for the Grand Canyon Resort Corporation. On Monday, December 21, 2015, the Grand Canyon West venues recorded their record-breaking 1 millionth visitor for 2015. The milestone was celebrated by treating Jenny and Mike Kim, the record-breaking visitor, to the full range of experiences available to Grand Canyon West guests.

"This is a very special moment for the Grand Canyon West, the Corporation and for all of our employees," said Hualapai Tribal Council Chairwoman Sherry Counts. "One million visitors represents an increase of more than 120,000 guests in the past year alone. That's huge - and these attractions will continue to get better in the year ahead. A new visitors center, a new restaurant and other new attractions means more reasons for people to visit in 2016. We want every day and every visit to be memorable for one and all."

Read the full story [here](#).

Hopi Arts Trail Receives Recognition



The Hopi Arts Trail, an affiliation of Hopi artists and galleries located across 12 villages on Hopi tribal land in northern Arizona was recently recognized by the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation Native Arts & Cultures Program. The Foundation seeks to create a greater understanding of the region's cultural art forms, its diverse Native cultures, as well as the needs, challenges and resources within Native arts. Representatives from the Foundation visited with the Hopi Arts Trail in 2014 as part of a regional overview effort to gain a deeper understanding of the native art and cultures of the southwest.

The Hopi have lived on the same land for over a thousand years making their culture one of the longest preserved in North America. Hopi live in twelve villages where tribal arts are still practiced with new and traditional interpretations of art forms. The core disciplines of Hopi art are pottery, silversmithing, basket weaving, and Kachina Doll carving. Newer areas of great accomplishment include glassworks, painting, and sculpture.

The Hopi Arts Trail was created for the benefit of Hopi artists living on tribal lands by the Moenkopi Developers Corporation, a non-profit entity dedicated to job creation and preservation of Hopi culture and language. Information on the program is available at www.HopiArtsTrail.com or by calling Mr. James Surveyor at (928) 283-4500.

Navajo Nation Takes Over Thunderbird Lodge at Canyon de Chelly

The Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprise has entered into a lease with the National Park Service to operate Thunderbird Lodge, formerly the Sacred Canyon Lodge. The hotel has been renamed the Thunderbird Lodge, in honor of the property's storied history.

A financial investment will be made by the Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprise to update the facilities. The modernization will allow the Lodge to favorably meet guests' expectations while maintaining the rich history. The financial investment will include a major guest room renovation and the return of Canyon de Chelly vehicle tours. The guest room renovation will include complete replacement of all furniture and fixtures along with updated modern amenities expected by travelers.

A Grand Opening will be held in early spring, which will correspond to the projected completion of the Lodge renovation.

To learn more about the Thunderbird Lodge visit www.ThunderbirdLodge.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

For membership info contact
Gail Chehak at gchehak@aianta.org

Shirley Sneve, Vision Maker Media

Shirley Sneve is the Executive Director of Vision Maker Media, whose mission is to share Native stories with the world that represent the cultures, experiences, and values of American Indians and Alaska Natives through Public Television. An enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, she has been in Nebraska for ten years. She has served as director of Arts Extension Service in Amherst, MA, and the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science's Visual Arts Center in Sioux Falls, SD. Shirley was assistant director for the South Dakota Arts Council, and she was a founder of Northern Plains Tribal Arts Show, the Oyate Trail cultural tourism byway, and the Alliance of Tribal Tourism Advocates. She started her career as a producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting. She serves on the boards of The Association of American Cultures, the Friends of the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, the South East Nebraska Native American Coalition, and the Arts Extension Institute. She chairs the board of Native Americans in Philanthropy. Shirley is also a consultant with Creative Community Builders.



Contact: Shirley Sneve, Vision Maker Media, 1800 N 33rd St., Lincoln, Nebraska 68503, 402.472.8675 or native@unl.edu, <http://www.visionmakermedia.org/>.

The Wrangell Cooperative Association

The Wrangell Cooperative Association was formed to promote the welfare of the Tlingit people through the development and operation of social and economic enterprises. History, native culture, wildlife, natural beauty, glaciers and excitement await in Wrangell. The Cooperative owns and operates the home of the Chief Shakes Historic Site, a National Register site that receives over 10,000 visitors a year and stands as one of the few lasting reminders of Southeast Alaska Natives and their unique totemic art. Wrangell Island, an island in the Alaska Panhandle, is 155 miles south of the Alaskan capital of Juneau.



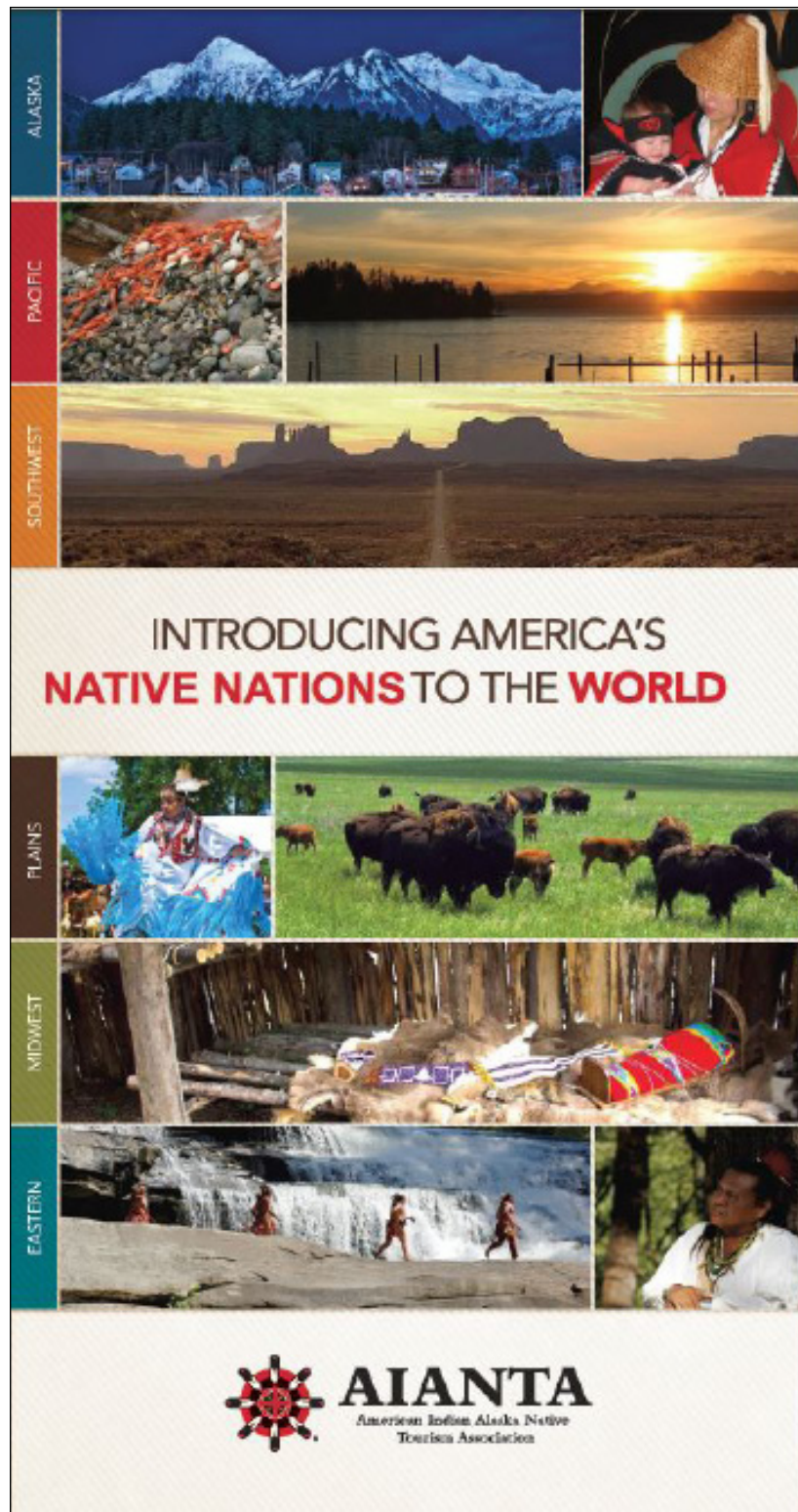
Contact: Wrangell Cooperative Association, PO Box 2021, Wrangell, Alaska 99929, 907-874-4304, wcatribes@gmail.com, <http://www.shakesisland.com/>

Leigh A. McGee, OSIYO Group

Leigh A. McGee is the Co-Founder and Principal of OSIYO Group (OSIYO), an American Indian, women-owned professional services firm. OSIYO was founded to foster strategic thinking and organizational improvements in native organizations by creating self-reliant direction, sustainable operations, and owner value. Since its inception in 2003, OSIYO has successfully executed contracts with tribal governments, federal agencies, native-owned enterprises, and national Indian organizations. They have a proven track record of customer satisfaction, quality results, and complying with agreed upon performance schedules and budgets. OSIYO has substantial skill sets, experience, and past performance. Practice areas include Visioning and Strategic Planning, Organizational Assessment (health check), Leadership Development, Meeting Facilitation and Mediation, Tribal Consultation, and Board Governance. OSIYO is committed to providing exceptional services with meaningful organizational and business results. Leigh completed a 10-year appointment to the U.S. Census Bureau's Race and Ethnic Advisory Committee (REAC) on the American Indian and Alaska Native populations. A citizen of Cherokee Nation, she holds a B.S. from Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK; and an M.B.A. from Wilmington University, New Castle, DE, graduating with high honors.



Contact: OSIYO Group, 7616 KilMichael Lane, Dallas, Texas 75248, 410.330.7484 or lamcgee@osiyogroup.com, <http://www.osiyogroup.com/>



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